

REMARKS:

Regarding the claims 1-3, and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sprague (1990) in view of Stafford (April 15, 2001), and further in view of Rackman (US 5,903,646). None of these references, even if combined, teaches each and every feature of the present invention. The Sprague, Stafford and Rackman references fail to teach a system that actually provides oversight and advice to businesses. Additionally, Applicant now presents two new claims, claims 7-8, that further clarify and distinguish the present invention from the references. In particular, the new claims describe a system that flags or highlights potential legal problems among a collection of information, as well as performs a translating function, including converting legal or other terminology into business, layman terminology.

The present invention is unique in view of the references cited. Only the Sprague and Stafford references describe systems for facilitating legal audits. However, both of these systems are tailor-made for use by legal professionals, rather than business persons. As previously argued, these references, even if combined do not teach a system that itself fulfills the role of legal counsel by reviewing information, summarizing this information, overseeing the information and advising companies on this information through a system-generated report. See Detailed Description, page 6, lines 6-23. Moreover, these references do not describe systems that go so far as to convert legal information into business, layman terminology for the convenience of the user of the system, which is ideally a business person. Rather, Sprague and Stafford facilitate the performance of legal audits by legal professionals. Legal analysis and reporting must ultimately be performed by others than the system itself.

Although Rackman does describe the step of summarizing information, the present invention does much more than simply summarize information. Contrary to the statement made in the Office Action that Rackman discloses a system for reducing legal documents to summary form "in business language," Rackman merely describes a system for facilitating litigation document production. Because of the specific requirements for document production in litigation, especially in view of ever changing, complex procedural rules, document production systems must be narrowly tailored to meet these requirements. Certainly, summarizing information can be a key step in organizing and managing documents produced in litigation. However, of paramount importance in document production is to maintain the authenticity of the information, documents, data, etc., being produced. Accordingly, changing language into "business" or layman terminology is not preferred, or even proper for purposes of document production. Additionally, document production is exchanged between legal professionals, rather than between a legal professional and a business person. A legal professional would rather review a summary of information in legal terminology than in business terminology, as this legal terminology has meaning in the art that may be lost when provided in a different form.

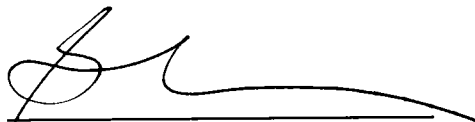
Importantly, modifying the references of Sprague, Stafford and Rackman to include the distinct features of the present invention would not be obvious. Under each of these systems, the step of summarizing *and converting* legal documents into "business language" is unnecessary considering legal professionals will either be interpreting reports generated by the system, or will be inputting information into the system. By contrast, this step is required in the present system, which is designed for

the specific purpose of directly assisting businesses. The references cited, on the other hand, describe systems for assisting legal professionals to analyze information and thereafter provide recommendations. Thus, input and intervention by legal professionals is both required and preferred in the references.

In the present invention, the system and method are especially tailored to facilitate legal audits *by business persons*. The various features and steps, including reviewing information, summarizing and converting this information, flagging potential legal problems, overseeing the information and advising companies on this information through a system-generated report, are important to the present invention, and are only found in combination in the present specification and claims. See Detailed Description, page 6, lines 6-23.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the 103 rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-6 is respectfully overcome. It is believed, therefore, that all of the claims now pending in the subject application are allowable over the references relied upon by the Office. Accordingly, a reconsideration of the present application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Kanos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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